

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of short-comings in the income-tax laws with respect to the assessment of small scale industrial undertakings pointed out by the Comptroller & Auditor General are as under:

In the absence of any provision in the Income-Tax Act to the effect that a unit should be registered with Director of Industries for claiming the concessions under the Act, and suitable provisions requiring District Industries Centres to send particulars of Small Scale Industrial Units registered with them to Tax authorities, it was not possible to bring all profit-making units to tax bracket. Besides, the large number of provisions and concessions obtaining in the statute book were mostly unavailable to the units, since most of them had limited profitability or none at all.

287 (c) The matter is under consideration.

Pension Scheme for L.I.C. Employees

6018. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is actively considering the introduction of 'Pension Schemes' for its employees;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced;

(c) whether the 'Pension Scheme' will also be applicable to the retired L.I.C employees, irrespective of their age of retirement if they opt for it; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a). No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The employees of the Life Insurance corporation of India are getting Gratuity and matching contribution of Provident Fund as retirement benefits. It is not considered feasible to give pension as a third retirement benefit.

Opening of New Bank Branches in Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

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6019. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer the reply given to unstarred question no.753 on July 26, 1991 and state:

(a) the locations for which licences for opening new branches of banks in hill districts of Pauri Garhwal, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and Uttarkashi are pending with banks, bank-wise;

(b) the date on which the Reserve Bank of India issued these licences; and

(c) the norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India for issuing licences to banks for opening their branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Bank-wise pending licences for opening new branches in hill districts of Pauri Garhwal, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal and Uttar-Kashi are given below:-

STATEMENT

Location		Date of issue of licence by RBI		Name of Bank
1	2	3	4	
(I)	<i>Pauri Garhwal</i>			
1.	Reethakhali	22.3.1989		State Bank of India
2.	Shankarpur	22.3.1989		— do —
3.	Kingorikhali	22.3.1989		— do —
4.	Haldukhali	22.3.1989		— do —
5.	Khandusain	26.9.1990		Punjab National Bank
6.	Kherakhali	23.1.1989		State Bank of India
7.	Gaundkhali	26.9.1990		— do —
8.	Gumkhali	23.1.1989		Alaknanda Gramin Bai
9.	Chailusain	26.9.1990		Punjab National Bank
10.	Nahsain	23.1.1989		State Bank of India
11.	Debiokhali	26.9.1990		Punjab National Bank

Location		Date of issue of licence by RBI		Name of Bank
1	2	3	4	
(II)	Chame			
1.	Maithan	2.2.1989		Alaknanda Gramin Bank
2.	Kulsai	26.10.1990		State Bank of India
3.	Kedarnath	21.3.1991		— do —
(III)	Tehri Garhwal			
1.	Marora, and	22.3.1989		Union Bank of India
2.	Pratapnagar	18.1.1990		State Bank of India
3.	Kamand	22.3.1989		Union Bank of India
4.	Akhori	22.6.1989		Punjab National Bank
(IV)	Uttarkashi			
1.	Dichli	24.9.1990		Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank

(c) RBI had issued the above licences under the previous Branch Licencing Policy 1985-90, which stipulated that there should be a bank branch for every 17000 population in rural/semi-urban areas of each block and that a branch should generally be available within 10kms. of each village. Having regard to the peculiar topography of hill/tribal areas and sparsely populated regions, opening of additional bank branches was considered on the basis of relaxed parameters of an average population of 10,000 per bank office (APPBO). Additional branches were also allotted to ensure that the service area of a rural/semi-urban branch did not normally exceed 15 to 25 villages.

Under the extant Branch Licencing Policy, the emphasis is on all out efforts to improve operational efficiency, quality of assets and financial strength of banks. The opening of bank branches will depend on well established need, business potential and financial viability of the proposed branches.

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Food Allowance to Sainik School Students

6020. SHRIMATISUSEELAGOPALAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long standing demand for increasing the food allowance given to the Sainik School students;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the food allowance considering the rise in prices of the food articles;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Certain demands for increas-

ing the food allowance for Sainik School Students have been received.

(b) and (c). The matter was considered in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sainik School Society in January 1991. This meeting recommened, *inter-alia*, the raising of fees as also the per diem food charges of the students. The aforesaid recommendation shall be placed before the Board of Governors of Sainik Schools Society for their decision, at their next meeting.

(d) Does not arise.

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Pension Benefits to Employees of Cantoment Boards

6021. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the employees of Cantoment Boards who retired before April 1, 1975, for grant of pension benefits; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Pension-cum Gratuity Scheme was sanctioned by the Government for Cantoment Board employees retiring on or after 1-5-1976. As the employees who retired before 1-5-1976 were instead receiving Contributory Provident Fund and bonus they were not eligible for coverage under the Pension-cum-Gratuity Scheme. Hence, their representations could not be accepted.